

Valpo Reminds Community of Governor's Order

Wednesday's warmer temperatures and sunny skies were a welcome reminder of spring but must not be used as an excuse to ignore the Governor Eric Holcomb's order to practice social distancing, reminds Valparaiso Mayor Matt Murphy. "We share the governor's concern for our state and his mandate for social distancing," said Murphy after receiving reports of groups playing basketball in a local park and congregating for sports or recreation. "We will all be back together soon enough, but now is the time for vigilance and mindfulness to reduce the nationwide spread of COVID-19," he said.

The governor's executive orders do empower local police departments to issue citations for violations. "The mayor and I are both concerned about reports of groups congregating in distances closer than six feet for recreation or socializing. While we understand the desire to connect, the governor's order is clear: To protect our communities during the coronavirus pandemic, we must maintain social distances of six feet or greater," said Valparaiso Police Chief Jeff Balon. "The Valparaiso Police Department is conducting extra patrols of parks and community spaces to educate people of the state-wide executive order and can issue citations for disregard of these orders. Citizens may report concerns to the Valparaiso Police Department for action," he said.

The City of Valparaiso continues to post community messaging on a special COVID-19 page on the city website, Valpo.us, as well as on the city's Facebook page, Valparaiso Now. Mayor Murphy has also invited city-related questions regarding COVID-19 and will address them in an upcoming video address and ongoing communications. Questions may be directed to the mayor's Executive Assistant Marci Palmer at mpalmer@valpo.us.